



# Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area—Your Park

## *Stewardship of the Land*

The Santa Monica Mountains rise above Los Angeles and curve northward, along the coast. This beautiful land contains resources of outstanding geological, biological, archeological, historical, sociological, recreational, and scenic value. Nowhere else in the National Park System, or even within the United States, exist such significant components of a Mediterranean biome. The climate, soils, plant life, wildlife, and human culture all combine to form a unique landscape.

*Congress recognized these special values in 1978 and established Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to be managed in a manner which will preserve and enhance its scenic, natural, and historical setting and its public health value as an airshed for the Southern California metropolitan area while providing for the recreational and educational needs of the visiting public.*

As part of a unique partnership, our mountain parks within the Recreation Area, are managed cooperatively by federal, state, county and city parks with private camps, homeowners and land planning agencies working together in an effort to preserve, protect, and wisely use the land.

The relationship between the natural world of the Santa Monica Mountains and people is not one-sided. People are a dynamic part of the cycles and changes in the mountains, whether through the building of roads and homes, the planting of non-native plants that affect the fire-dependent chaparral plant community, or garbage left behind on trails, and picnic areas. People have a profound impact.

You have had the opportunity to become informed about this unique Mediterranean landscape, to perform labs that resource managers conduct, to learn the land management issues of fire ecology and the responsibilities that surround it.

These parks are your parks. As public lands, they are owned by the people. What can you do to help them remain in their natural state and ensure that they will remain so for generations to come?